

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

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FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8467
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AMEMBASSY CONAKRY
AMEMBASSY DAKAR
AMEMBASSY NIAMEY
AMCONSUL KADUNA

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E.O. 11652: N/A
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SUBJECT: SEKOU TOURE VISITS NIGERIA

1. PRESIDENT SEKOU TOURE OF GUINEA LEFT LAGOS
ON MAY 12 AT THE CONCLUSION OF HIS THREE-DAY
STATE VISIT TO NIGERIA WHICH FEATURED TALKS ON
A NUMBER OF POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC QUESTIONS.
ASIDE FROM THE USUAL ROUND OF ACTIVITIES WHICH
WERE CONDUCTED UNDER TIGHTER THAN NORMAL SECURITY
ARRANGEMENTS, THE GUINEAN LEADER PAID A ONE-DAY
VISIT TO MAKURDI (BENUE STATE) WHERE HE DELIVERED
AN EMOTIONAL SPEECH ON THE AFRICAN INDEPENDENCE
STRUGGLE.

2. HIS REMARKS AT MAKURDI WERE HIS ONLY
MAJOR PUBLIC STATEMENT DURING THE TRIP. ACCORD-
ING TO PRESS ACCOUNTS, TOURE CALLED FOR "A COMMON
REVOLUTION IN AFRICA." HE PRAISED NIGERIAN
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SUPPORT FOR THE ARMED STRUGGLE IN SOUTHERN
AFRICA AND, ACCORDING TO THE MAY 15 DAILY TIMES,
CALLED UPON THE NATIONS OF AFRICA TO WITHDRAW
FROM THE U.N. IF, IN ONE MONTH'S TIME, THE U.N.
HAS NOT DECLARED NAMIBIA INDEPENDENT FROM SOUTH
AFRICA. PRESS ALSO REPORTED THAT THE GUINEAN
LEADER ADVISED OLD PEOPLE THAT THEY SHOULD PASS

ALONG TO THE YOUNG THEIR EXPERIENCE IN AFRICA'S STRUGGLE FOR SURVIVAL. "TELL THEM THE TALES OF WOE, HORROR/OPPRESSION, MASSACRE, SLAVERY AND STARVATION WHICH MARKED YOUR DWINDLING LIFE IN A CONTINENT WHICH GOD CREATED FOR THE PLEASURE OF YOU AND YOUR GENERATIONS."

3. TOURE'S DISCUSSIONS WITH NIGERIAN OFFICIALS WERE REFLECTED IN/A FINAL COMMUNIQUE WHICH STATED THAT IT HAD BEEN AGREED TO SET UP A JOINT COMMISSION FOR COOPERATION IN TRADE, INDUSTRY, EDUCATION, AND CULTURE. IN THE ECONOMIC FIELD, COOPERATION IN THE EXPLOITATION OF THE DABOLA BAUXITE WAS SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED. ON POLITICAL QUESTIONS, THE COMMUNIQUE CONTAINED THE USUAL EXPRESSIONS OF SOLIDARITY ON SOUTHERN AFRICA ISSUES.

4. COMMENT: PRESIDENT TOURE WAS WARMLY WELCOMED IN LAGOS BOTH IN OFFICIAL CIRCLES AND BY THE PRESS. FOR MOST NIGERIANS, IN PARTICULAR FOR THE RELATIVELY YOUNG MEMBERS OF THE FEDERAL MILITARY GOVERNMENT, THE GUINEAN LEADER IS A SIGNIFICANT FIGURE IN AFRICAN HISTORY AS WELL AS AN IMPORTANT POLITICAL LEADER. IN ADDITION, THE NIGERIANS DO NOT PERCEIVE TOURE, UNLIKE OTHER FRANCOPHONE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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LEADERS, AS AN IMPEDIMENT TO NIGERIA'S NEWLY DISCOVERED AMBITION TO PLAY A ROLE OF REGIONAL POLITICAL LEADERSHIP. AS THE DAILY TIMES EDITORIALIZED IN WELCOMING THE PRESIDENT: "LESSER MINDS MIGHT HAVE FOUND NIGERIA'S RECENT BOLDNESS IN FOREIGN POLICY SOMEWHAT DISCONCERTING. BUT PRESIDENT TOURE HAS THROWN HIS COUNTRY'S DETERMINED SUPPORT BEHIND NIGERIA AT THE OAU, AT THE UNITED NATIONS, AND INDEED, WHENEVER SUCH SUPPORT WAS JUDGED NECESSARY. WE CANNOT SAY THAT MUCH FOR SOME OF OUR OTHER NEIGHBORS." EASUM

NOTE BY OCT: MESSAGE DELAYED IN TRANSMISSION.

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